

CLUB LIFE AT THE Y. M. C. A.

"It is as practical as a load of brick," said a statesman of international prominence, speaking of the Young Men's Christian Association. "What I like about your association is that you mix common sense with religion."

This world-wide brotherhood, of which the Honolulu Y. M. C. A. is a splendid example, is the outgrowth of the efforts of a humble drygoods clerk in London sixty-eight years ago. The association of today with its hun-



dered of thousands of members and nearly a hundred million dollars worth of property, is a growth to which the wildest dreams of the founder never aspired. This man was Sir George Williams, who died in London in 1906.

When Williams and eleven other fellow-clerks gathered together in a parlor room, they were there not so much in response to the call of Williams as in response to the fundamental craving of young men for sociability. The wonderful growth of the Y. M. C. A. throughout the world and in Honolulu is due to this fact—that it is founded on sound principles and in response to a natural craving for social life, for sociability characterizes every effort and every feature of the association. Eating together is sociability; playing hand ball, base ball and gymnasium games is sociability. Many men go into the reading room of the association, no so much for the reading, because they can read at home, but because they can read in the presence of other men, mix-



with congenial spirits and feel that they are not alone. Social Instincts Recognized.

The religious work of the association recognizes the social instincts. When the religious committee met the other night to plan the work for the coming year, eighteen men gathered around the dinner table, and sociability preceded religion. When the Newcomers' Club gathers next Sunday afternoon, it precedes its meeting with an informal concert in the lobby, and follows the meeting with a supper in Cooke Hall; a meeting in which good fellowship is so prevalent that it draws the most reticent men out of their shells. All through the year from week to week the Bible classes will meet for lunches and suppers and the social tie of the common board will bind the



classes together with ties stronger, perhaps, than the skill of a leader or the interest of the subject. So from the beginning of its plan to the end the association grounds its work in sociability.

Purpose Never Forgotten. But it is sociability with a purpose; and it is this fact which distinguishes the Y. M. C. A. from purely social clubs. Sociability is not made the end or purpose of its policies, however; it is but the natural concomitant of plans having a more serious purpose—the building of character. A light purpose alone will not long hold the interest or attention of the think-



ing man. The association has succeeded because it has learned the art of combining the serious purpose; gymnasium work is a serious purpose, night school, reading and Bible study are all serious purposes. They contribute to the fourfold work of the Y. M. C. A.—the building of men strong in mind, strong in body, strong

in spirit and strong in sociability. Some happy genius has called the association a "character factory," and the phrase has been copied and re-copied from coast to coast and from the lakes to the gulf.

Some Illustrations.

Here is what the association does: A young business man called on his physician one day for medical advice. He was not able to carry on his work because of occasional fainting spells. His physician advised that he needed nothing so much as systematic exercise, and sent him to the Y. M. C. A. He took up handball, and in a few months had entirely overcome his ailment. "If you ever want anybody to say a good word for your games, call on me," he said to one of the secretaries.

A young man of about twenty years dropped into the association building one evening and said he wanted to study to become a stenographer. A short conversation with the fellow showed the head of the educational department that he had not had sufficient training in English to qualify himself for a stenographic position. He had had few educational opportunities and up until that time had, with his limited education, been able



to receive no better position than the driving of a delivery wagon. On the advice of the man behind the desk he went into the English and bookkeeping classes. This young man now holds the position of head bookkeeper with one of the larger island concerns, and is making good.

More than one young man about town could tell the story of the association's contribution to his life, increasing his education or economizing efficiency. Their stories would be of a rehabilitated character, a lost reputation regained, a new grip and self-control, a higher purpose in life and an increased joy of living. For the association believes in its triangle—body, mind and spirit—and tries to do more for a man than simply to develop his mental or physical biceps.

Why Funds Came Fast. This is the reason that when the association started its campaign to accumulate funds for a new building, the money came in like this: One subscription of \$50,000, four of \$10,000 (two of which were cabled from Germany), seven of \$5,000, several of \$3,000, \$2,500 and \$2,000; ten of \$1,000,



and enough others of smaller contributions to make a total of over 1000 contributors, many of them representing real sacrifice. No such story of money-giving has ever been told in Hawaii before or will be the memory of what the association is doing for young men that led a giver in England, who had not been in Hawaii for many years, to cable the following in response to a request for funds: "£2000—more if you want it." By wireless, cable and mail the money came in and Honolulu got on the Y. M. C. A. maps as the city of its size that cared most for its young men, building for them the largest building in the world.

W. C. Weedon brought the association idea to Honolulu from England nearly fifty years ago, and the Honolulu association was organized on April 30, 1869, with the following charter members: W. R. Castle, S. N. Emerson, W. C. Weedon, Sanford B. Dole, Curtis Lyons, P. C. Jones, A. F. Judd, H. McIntyre, William Clark, W. H. Hall, S. W. Pogue and T. Rain Walker.

Six years ago the association had 293 members and two men on the employed force. Today there are 1100 members in the central association and 127 members in the Japanese branch on Smith street.

Six years ago the property of the association was valued at \$30,000. Today it occupies a building that cost \$250,000 and employs eleven trained executive officers and a whole corps of building employees. **Club Atmosphere.** The social life of the association of Honolulu is wholesome and homelike, and the large membership breaks up into many smaller groups of kindred spirits who make the building their rendezvous. The new members soon become acquainted with congenial men and readily drop into the social life of the "Y." Stag dinners for the members will be held from time to time for the thousand members to cultivate each other's acquaintance and meet incoming new members. Ladies' night will be held once a month of this year, when they will have a chance to see the bowling games, gymnasium exhibitions, and attend concerts and entertainments. A number of special



MAIN LOBBY OF Y. M. C. A. BUILDING, A CENTER FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITY IN THE BIG ORGANIZATION.

evenings have been planned, beginning with a concert and reception Friday night, October 11—the building's first anniversary.

The way a man or boy spends his off hours, the sort of recreation he chooses and the places he finds his friends make a lot of difference in the kind of a man he is going to be. That is the reason this splendid building has been built with its many attractions, so that the young men may get recreation that is real re-creation, and enjoy club life in a way that builds up character.

Bowling, Chess and Checkers. Two tables by the billiard room and two over in the lounge room are set aside for those who like to work on the problems of chess and checkers. The chess games with the San Fran-



cisco men by wireless interested quite a number, and tournaments are held both for the old timers and the beginners.

The three "Maple Boulevards" are one of the most popular features. They are cool and well ventilated and the automatic pin setters make fast bowling possible. There is always some sort of competition going on; noon, after work, and at night you are sure to find some one to bowl with. Seven and a half cents is the rate you pay, and all lower classes are full members and have private lockers in which to keep clothes, shoes and their "dodo balls."

Billiards. The spacious billiard room is equipped with four mission tables, three for pocket and one for straight, and it only costs five cents an hour to play.

The Gymnasium. The gymnasium is one of the finest and most completely equipped of its size. It is open on the two long sides, has an extra high ceiling, and the air is as fresh as out-of-doors. The floor is of maple and the equipment is of the very latest pattern. Fred W. Lau, Physical Director, has just arrived here from the mainland and comes with new ideas and is fully prepared to take up his duties. He is assisted by Assistant Physical Director Johnson, another well trained man.

But the gymnasium is not one-third of the physical equipment. A running track, two hand-ball courts, a boxing fencing and wrestling room, with two punching bags and a games hall big enough for tennis—in one of these anyone can find the sort of exercise he likes.

The three classes into which the members of the gymnasium classes are divided each have their own separate locker rooms and shower bath. The lockers are all steel, and the showers are of the latest pattern.

Latest in Physical Work. Modern physical directors do not keep their classes at constant apparatus work. Games and interesting contests occupy a good part of the program of a class period, and contribute



greatly toward vitality. Mr. Lau and Mr. Johnson will introduce the latest wrinkles in physical work this season. The members of the gym classes are divided into the following three groups:—Seniors, or young men, meet at night twice a week; Business Men, who join the business men's club, have

afternoon classes three days a week at five o'clock, and special morning and noon classes; Boys under eighteen years old are entirely separated from the men and have separate classes. There are no boys in the men's department.

The members using the physical department wear white athletic shirts and track pants and gymnasium or tennis shoes. These suits are cool and clean and give the members a uniform appearance.

Every member receives a physical examination before he begins gymnasium work. This is to prevent men with weak hearts undertaking too heavy work, and gives the physical director opportunity to prescribe special physical work for the men who need it. Members are measured and each given a chart showing how his measurements compare with the average for men his height. Another examination is made at the end of the year which indicates the progress the member has made.

Special Club Features. Club life in Honolulu centers largely around the noon-day meal, and this feature is emphasized at the "Y" where scores of men eat daily. The cafeteria is for members and their friends. Now that the kitchen has been enlarged, short are handled, and three regular meals are served every day except Sunday, supper being the only meal served Sunday.

The reading room is one of the prominent features of the association. It is handy for the men who stop at the cafeteria for their meals, and is also greatly utilized by the members. All the latest magazines and newspapers are on file, and the library contains upward of five hundred well selected books. Arrangements are now under way whereby the association will become a branch of the Honolulu library, and circulate its books from the building. This will be a great convenience to the members, and will be in charge of secretary Uribe.

Five tables supplied with stationery, pens and ink will be found in the correspondence room. These supplies are at the service of both mem-



bers and outsiders who care to use them.

The Dormitory. The entire third floor of the building is taken up by the modern dormitory. There are sixteen single and eight double rooms, furnished in the most up-to-date manner. The lavatory between the two wings of the building is furnished with fine modern, sanitary plumbing. Hot and cold shower baths add to the joy of life in the dorm, and the rooms are always in demand.

The social advantages of the dormitory are obvious. With the social rooms of the association always at hand, the gymnasium for exercises and the library for reading, this is one of the best possible solutions of the living problem.

Among the other features the one having a place for committee meetings is one of the most important ones. The young men of the association frequently belong to a number of clubs and organizations, and serve on committees. Rooms are provided where these committees can meet when the object of the meeting is one that the association can endorse.

The Night School. For the young man either in school or serving as an apprentice at some trade, who wishes to become better qualified for future work, this department is probably the most important. No pains have been spared by the association to provide competent local instructors—men who have had experience in teaching and who are thoroughly familiar with their subject, and to furnish class rooms containing the apparatus for all the

subjects taught in the modern high school and college.

The classes start on the evening of October 7. Classes will be conducted in industrial and commercial subjects, each class meeting two nights a week. For mechanics: shop mathematics, English, mechanical drawing and advanced mathematics, in addition to the course for machine shop apprentices under a man who knows both theory and practice of shop work. For other members: English, arithmetic, bookkeeping, shorthand (the Gregg system), typewriting, most high school and college mathematics, and also such special courses as investments, business law and advanced bookkeeping for older students.

Clubs. A number of groups of men having



common interests are going to organize a variety of clubs this winter. The chess club is well under way. The Lyric, Mandolin and Guitar Club was recently organized by twelve of the musically inclined members under the tuition of Professor de Graca. They will slip a little ragtime once in awhile, but classical numbers will be the base of their selections the greater part of the time. The public speaking, under the direction of that polished orator, "Wiz," has already interested a number of the members.

The younger members of the association have several clubs going among which are the aero club, camera club, stamp club and chess club.

Employment Bureau. More attention than ever will be given this year to securing positions for the members of the association will decide to stop school and go to work. This feature alone will make membership a thing of great value to some men. The association has placed men in positions paying up to \$1,800 a year and opportunities are continually opening for good men. The resources of the association make this a good investment.

Practical Talks. This feature of the educational work will be developed this year to a far greater extent than previously. Men who have done interesting things, been in interesting places or gained prominence in different ways will be asked to tell their story to the members of the association. At different times subjects of local, commercial and business interest will be presented by experts in these subjects.

Something About Joining. The membership committee passes on all applications for membership, and the board of directors elects the new members. When members of the association go to other cities anywhere in the world, they can transfer their membership, and the association gives letters of introduction to associations anywhere. Visitors are always welcome, not only at "open house," but any day.



Purpose of the Association. Many people have no doubt asked themselves the question, "What is the purpose of the Young Men's Christian Association?" Why, it is to help men. One readily sees how the social, physical, educational and employment de-

partments contribute to man building. But the association would be doing only a part of the job if it went no further with its plans than education, health and a livelihood. Character is the chief essential. The association believes in the religion of Jesus Christ. To that end it conducts Bible classes and religious meetings, and is always glad to talk with men about the fight for character. The association is not working for any one denomination, but for all denominations, leaving the members to make their own choice of a church. It does not discuss matters of creed and things that divide men. The goal, not the particular part, is what it is interested in as an association.

A new secretary, Lloyd R. Killam, has been added to the force this year to promote the special religious work of the association and cooperate with the members in counteracting the downward pull of the city. He will also work with Mr. Wisdom in promoting the social side of association life.

The club feature of the association will characterize the religious side as

up to a man-building program, houses it in a splendid structure, and gives the young men of the city the things a clean, live young man craves.

The officers of the association now are:

Board of Directors—R. H. Trent, president; W. G. Hall, vice president; Robert Anderson, recording secretary; F. C. Atherton, treasurer; W. T. Pope, R. B. Anderson, Ed Towse, H. G. Dillingham, Alex. Lindsay, Jr., W. A. Love, F. D. Lowrey, R. A. Cooke, R. J.



well as the social side, and all Bible groups will be organized on the club basis. The Bible study clubs are not limited to the members.

The Honolulu Young Men's Christian Association takes the main feature of club life—sociability,—links it

Pratt, Geo. F. Davis, C. H. Atherton, Board of Trustees—R. H. Trent, B. F. Dillingham, F. J. Lowrey, C. H. Cooke, H. M. von Holt. Employed Officers—Paul Super, general secretary; Lloyd R. Killam, assistant general secretary; F. H. Emmons, business secretary; Jay A. Uribe, office secretary; A. E. Larimer, secretary educational department; Chas. F. Loomis, secretary boys' department; R. M. Cross, assistant secretary boys' department; A. T. Wisdom, secretary social department; Fred W. Lau, physical director; W. R. Johnson, assistant physical director. Membership Committee—Ed. Towse, chairman; A. E. Larimer, secretary; M. G. Johnston, Fred W. Zeigler, John C. Anderson, A. H. Tarleton, E. F. Melanphy, C. E. Blacow.



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